

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 H-01 SCS-06 L-03 CA-01 /032 W  
-----004401 172046Z /61/45  
P R 171111Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1497  
INFO USDOC WASHDC

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

USDOC FOR BEWT

E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAIR, CASC, HU  
SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY

REF: A) STATE 117021, B) BUDAPEST 1960

1. EMBASSY DISCUSSED SUSKO CASE WITH OFFICIALS OF MALEV, THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND THE NATIONAL BANK. IN SEPARATE MEETINGS THESE OFFICIALS SAID THAT HUNGARIAN CITIZENS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PURCHASE AIRLINE TICKETS FOR FORINTS ON ROUTES NOT SERVED BY MALEV (HUNGARIAN AIRLINES). OFFICIAL TRAVEL AND TOURIST TRAVEL ORGANIZED BY STATE TOURIST AGENCIES ARE EXCEPTIONS. WITH SUCH REGULATIONS, GOH SEEKS TO AVOID PROBLEM OF HAVING TO PAY HARD CURRENCY TO FOREIGN CARRIERS FOR THOSE PORTIONS OF FLIGHT ROUTES NOT FLOWN BY MALEV AND FOR WHICH HUNGARIAN CITIZENS WOULD USE FORINTS TO PURCHASE AIRLINE TICKETS IN HUNGARY. EACH MENTIONED THAT BEST SOLUTION FOR MRS. SUSKO WOULD BE TO FLY TO U.S. ON PREPAID BASIS.

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2. NATIONAL BANK OFFICIAL WAS MOST FORTHCOMING. HE EMPHASIZED THAT FOREIGN EXCHANGE AUTHORITIES IN HUNGARY RESERVE RIGHT TO REGULATE FORINT AIRLINE TICKET SALES BY FOREIGN CARRIERS OPERATING IN HUNGARY UNDER AIR AGREEMENTS WITH MALEV. HE ADDED THAT ALL SUCH AIR AGREEMENTS STIPULATE THAT TICKET SALES ARE GOVERNED BY HUNGARIAN LAW. ALTHOUGH THE LAW PROVIDES THAT HUNGARIANS TRAVELING ON TOURIST

PASSPORTS MAY PURCHASE AIRLINE TICKETS FOR FORINTS ONLY ON MALEV, HUNGARIANS MAY ALSO TRAVEL ON TOURIST PASSPORTS ON PREPAID TICKET BASIS TO AREAS WHERE MALEV DOES NOT FLY PROVIDED THEY HAVE LETTER OF INVITATION STATING THAT INVITEE IS PURCHASING AIRLINE TICKET. OFFICIAL ADDED THAT HUNGARIAN CITIZEN MAY REQUEST EXCEPTION TO THIS REGULATION PROVIDED HE HAS A LETTER OF INVITATION AND MAKES A STATEMENT THAT INVITEE IS NOT WILLING TO PROVIDE AIRLINE TICKET. TO DO THIS HUNGARIAN MAY OBTAIN FORM FROM MALEV, FILL IT IN AND ASK THAT IT BE FORWARDED TO NATIONAL BANK FOR APPROVAL. BANK DECIDES SUCH CASES AT ITS DISCRETION. PROCESS COULD TAKE ONE TO SEVEN DAYS. IF NATIONAL BANK APPROVES, THEN HUNGARIAN CITIZEN MAY PURCHASE FOR FORINTS TICKET TO U.S. OR OTHER AREAS NOT SERVICES BY MALEV.

3. REGARDING SUBJECT INQUIRY, NATIONAL BANK OFFICIAL OFFERED TO MEET WITH MRS. SUSKO AND ASSIST HER AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITHIN THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW. HE CAUTIONED, THOUGH, THAT SHOULD SHE REQUEST AN EXCEPTION PER PARA 2 ABOVE, HIS ASSISTING HER DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE NATIONAL BANK WOULD APPROVE HER REQUEST. OFFICIAL ADDED THAT HE WILL ASSIST HER IN ORDER TO FURTHER GROWTH OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. (COMMENT: YESTERDAY EMBOFF SET UP APPOINTMENT THRU OFFICIAL'S SECRETARY. OFFICIAL HIMSELF PHONED SHORTLY AFTERWARDS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CANCEL APPOINTMENT. THIS MORNING OFFICIAL CALLED EMBOFF TO REQUEST THAT APPOINTMENT BE SET ONCE AGAIN. OFFICIAL SPOKE FROM NOTES AS THOUGH HE WERE ACTING ON ISTRUCTIONS. AT END OF CONVERSATION HE ASKED FOR NAME OF U.S. SENATOR MAKING INQUIRY.)

4. REF A GAVE NO DETAILS ON WHETHER MRS. SUSKO HAS PASSPORT AND LETTER OF INVITATION, WHEN SHE TRIED TO PURCHASE HER TICKET, AND WHETHER SHE TRIED TO PURCHASE THE TICKET ON PANAM OR MALEV. WE BELIEVE SHE LIVES IN A VILLAGE (TIMAR) NEAR THE SOVIET BORDER AND SHE DOES NOT HAVE A PHONE. WE SENT HER A TELEGRAM ASKING HER TO COME TO BUDAPEST SO THAT WE MAY DETERMINE HOW WE MAY BE OF ASSISTANCE. AFTER WE HAVE TALKED TO HER, WE WILL REQUEST APPOINTMENT FOR HER AT NATIONAL BANK AND ASSIST HER IN HER APPLICATION. UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SHE WILL BE ABLE TO ARRIVE U.S. BY MAY 21. IF SHE DOES INDEED HAVE A PASSPORT, EMBASSY WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO FACILITATE HER TRAVEL, HOPEFULLY TO THE U.S. BY MAY 21.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TREATY VIOLATION, DEPENDENTS, AIR FARES, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, TRAVEL CONTROLS  
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**Draft Date:** 17 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014